



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

Mar 28, 2023

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair
Maryland House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

SB379: Favorable

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Committee Members:

My name is Katherine Berry, the Election Director in Carroll County, and the chair of the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) Legislative Committee. I am writing on behalf of MAEO to provide you with testimony and support for SB379 – *Ballot Processing and Reporting Procedures*.

Local boards of election work diligently to have the results of the election reported to the public as promptly and efficiently as possible. This has become complicated as mail-in ballots have become exponentially more popular and well-received among Maryland voters. Mail-in ballot voting and early voting numbers combined now exceed Election Day voting in many Maryland jurisdictions. Our local board offices currently compensate for what has come to be known as “running two elections concurrently,” by taking advantage of the ability to canvass before Early Voting. This is an efficient practice that allows us to present Election Night results.

Our overarching goals are to be accessible and see that every legitimate vote is counted. During an election cycle, curing oath signatures is a daily assignment, and each local board works tirelessly to make the process as seamless as possible for the voter. It would be advantageous to allow the local boards a maximum amount of time to contact the voter, as we strive to also maintain rhythm in processing applications, mailing and receiving ballots, while also preparing for Early Voting and Election Day.

SB379 aptly depicts the adjustments we find necessary to successfully perform our duties as Election Officials. Election Officials all over the state are elated to know that this piece of legislation is being considered because it considers the workload and time constraints that come with implementing greater access and convenience for the voter.

At MAEO, we are committed to performing our jobs with efficiency, effectiveness, and absolute accuracy in the election results. We encourage a favorable report on SB379 in order to further our mission. Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please contact me at (410) 386-2958 or katherine.berry@maryland.gov.